

**Lillian McFarlin, Ph.D.**

**Office Contact**

Child Development Laboratories  
Human Development & Family Studies  
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**Education**

- 2011 Doctor of Philosophy  
Early Childhood Curriculum & Instruction  
University of Texas, Austin
- 2004 Master of Arts  
Curriculum & Instruction  
University of Texas, San Antonio
- 2002 Bachelor of Arts  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
University of Texas, San Antonio

**Professional Experience**

- 2013-present Faculty Specialist, Department of Human Development and Family Studies,  
Assistant Director, Child Development Laboratories, Michigan State University
- 2012 Bilingual (Spanish/English) painting instructor for young children at San Antonio art  
studio
- 2004-2011 Research assistant at the University of Texas. Creation of curricular materials in  
English and Spanish, presenting content, gathering data, and organizing state  
conferences in the subjects of Response to Intervention, Literacy, Science, Math, &  
Playground Use, Austin, Texas
- 1996-2004 Teaching a mixed age class, 5-12 years, at a non-profit urban child care center.  
Providing curricular support and helping to do all tasks necessary to keep the center  
running at peak efficiency. Lead fundraising and grant writing for the center,  
San Antonio, Texas

**Courses**

- 2015-2016 HDFS 201, Child Development (ages 0-3) Online class for Great Plains IDEA  
2014-2016 HDFS 490, Administrative Independent Study  
2013-2016 HDFS 321, Curriculum for Children, Michigan State University

**Outreach**

- 2014-2016 Michigan State University Science Festival, Representing Child Development  
Laboratories

- 2013-2016 Grandparents University, Teaching STEM to Preschoolers, Michigan State University
- 2013-2016 Michigan State University 4-H Exploration Days, Representing Child Development Laboratories
- 2014 MSU CDL representative to Chang Gung University of Science and Technology, Tao-Yuan, Taiwan
- 2013 Michigan State University Museum, SEAL-Tots: Successfully Engaging All Learners, Assisting with the creation of activities to engage child visitors ages 2-5

## Presentations

- September 2016 **McFarlin, L.** & Zhang, X. *Outdoor Nature Explore*, Presentation for International Workshop, East Lansing, Michigan
- McFarlin, L.** *Science and Math Education*, Presentation in CDL International Workshop, East Lansing, Michigan
- McFarlin, L.** *MSU Children's Garden as an Outdoor Environment*, Presentation in CDL International Workshop, East Lansing, Michigan
- April 2016 **McFarlin, L.** *The How and Why of Thematic Webbing*, Presentation at MiAEYC Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- Cudahy, P. & **McFarlin, L.** *Art for Toddlers*, Presentation at MiAEYC Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- February 2016 **McFarlin, L.** *Picture Book Activities*, Presentation at Coming Together for Children Conference, Lansing, Michigan
- June 2015 **McFarlin, L.** *The CDL Outdoor Environment: Teaching in All Domains*, Presentation in CDL International Workshop, East Lansing, Michigan
- March 2015 **McFarlin, L.** *Playing and Teaching Science*, Presentation at MiAEYC Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- McFarlin, L.** *Picture Books and Beyond: Using Picture Books to Integrate Curriculum*, Presentation at MiAEYC Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- August 2014 **McFarlin, L.** *Hands on Science and Math Instruction*, Presentation in CDL International Workshop, East Lansing, Michigan
- McFarlin, L.** *Assessment and Curricular Models*, Presentation in CDL International Workshop, East Lansing, Michigan
- June 2014 **McFarlin, L.**, *Science for Teachers*, Presentation in Child Development class at Chang Gung University of Science and Technology, Tao-Yuan, Taiwan
- McFarlin, L.**, *Environments*, Presentation in Environmental Design class at Chang Gung University of Science and Technology, Tao-Yuan, Taiwan
- May 2014 **McFarlin, L.**, *Why Teach Science to Preschoolers*, Presentation in Child Development class at Chang Gung University of Science and Technology, Tao-Yuan, Taiwan

**McFarlin, L.**, *Supporting Children with Special Needs in an Inclusive Environment*, Presentation in Special Education class at Chang Gung University of Science and Technology, Tao-Yuan, Taiwan

**McFarlin, L. & Lin, W.**, *Picture Book Workshop*, Presentation at Chang Gung University of Science and Technology, Tao-Yuan, Taiwan

April 2011 **McFarlin, L.**, *How Children in a Science-Centered Preschool Use Science Process Skills While Engaged in Play Activities*, Doctoral Research Presentation, University of Texas, Austin, Texas

October 2009 Pallais, D. & **McFarlin, L.**, *Supporting the Implementation of Research-based Strategies with Spanish-speaking Students who are Struggling in Reading*, 31st International Conference on Learning Disabilities, Dallas, Texas

March 2008 **McFarlin, L.**, *How Children in a Science-Centered Preschool Pursue Their Own Science Interests While Modifying and Fulfilling Program Goals*, The American Educational Research Association (AERA), New York, New York

November 2007 Walker, K. & **McFarlin, L.**, Round Table presentation: *Response to Intervention implementation in early grades*. The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), Chicago, Illinois

## Research Engagement

2009-2011 How Children in a Science-Centered Preschool Use Science Process Skills While Engaged in Play Activities (P.I. Lillian McFarlin)  
This study followed the daily activities of four- and five-year-old children attending a science-based preschool in Texas. The play activities of the children were observed for their use of science process skills. Extensive field data was collected to establish what and how process skills were being used. Teacher instruction was also examined to determine possible links between instructional and play activities.

2008-2011 Base Line Objectives for Children's Knowledge and Skills Research Project (University of Texas, Center for Science and Mathematics Education)  
The NSF-funded Building BLOCKS for Science research study involves extensive classroom observation by teachers and researchers of prekindergarten children's ability to learn science processes and content; delivery of intensive professional development and mentoring support for Prekindergarten teachers to learn science; and development of qualitative, as well as, quantitative assessment strategies.

2008-2011 Building RTI Capacity in Texas Schools (Vaughn Gross Center/Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk)  
The project focused on disseminating information, resources, and tools designed to enhance the use of an instructional decision-making model. Provided technical assistance to regional education centers in the use of a 3-Tier model and created tools to manage school-wide data.

2006 Playground use and Outdoor science (GameTime/Joe Frost, Ph.D./John Sutterby, Ph.D.)  
For this project I gathered field data on playground use at a private Texas elementary school. The data included narratives of how young children were using playground equipment and how the school's science educator was integrating outdoor science/gardening activities.

- 2005 Three-tier Mathematics Intervention Model  
(Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk)  
For this project I edited math interventions for Kinder-Third grades and presented the assessments to Kindergarten teachers at a Texas Elementary school. I also implemented the assessments in Kinder-Third grade elementary school classrooms.
- 2004-2008 Spotlight 3-Tier Project  
(Vaughn Gross Center for Reading and Language Arts)  
This project provided technical assistance to four Texas elementary schools in implementing a Response to Intervention reading model in grades Kinder-Third. We held state conferences for Texas educators to learn how these four schools used their resources to implement and sustain change.
- 2004 3-Tier Reading Project  
(Vaughn Gross Center/Del Valle ISD)  
For this project I pulled individual students in grades Kinder-Third in Del Valle schools to perform literacy assessments, including DIBELS, Woodcock Reading Mastery, & Peabody Picture Vocabulary Test.

#### **Conference Attendance and Trainings**

- April 2016 MiAEYC Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- February 2016 Coming Together for Children Early Childhood Conference, CMAEYC/LCC/CDL, Lansing, Michigan
- November 2015 NAEYC National Conference, Orlando, FL
- March 2015 MiAEYC Early Childhood Conference, Grand Rapids, Michigan
- November 2014 NAEYC National Conference, Dallas, TX
- February 2014 Coming Together for Children Early Childhood Conference, CMAEYC/LCC/CDL, Lansing, Michigan
- November 2013 NAEYC National Conference, Washington, DC
- March 2013 Nature Explore Workshop, Learning with Nature, Kalamazoo, Michigan
- February 2013 Coming Together for Children Early Childhood Conference, CMAEYC/LCC/CDL, Lansing, Michigan
- January 2013 HDFS 320: Interaction with Children in Groups, Gipson-Tansil, L., MSU

**Publications:**

McFarlin, L. (2011). *How children in a science-centered preschool use science process skills while engaged in play activities* (Doctoral dissertation). Retrieved from University of Texas Library <http://repositories.lib.utexas.edu/bitstream/handle/2152/ETD-UT-2011-05-3518/MCFARLIN DISSERTATION.pdf?sequence=1>

Meadows Center for Preventing Educational Risk. (2010). *User's guide to the campus leadership response to intervention data management tool (RTI-DMT)*. Austin, TX: Author. Retrieved from [http://buildingrti.utexas.org/PDF/RTI-DMT-Guide\\_printer\\_friendly.pdf](http://buildingrti.utexas.org/PDF/RTI-DMT-Guide_printer_friendly.pdf)

**Skills:**

- Languages: English, Spanish
- Texas Teaching Certificates in:
  - Elementary Art, (Grades 1-8)
  - Elementary Life-Earth Science, (Grades 1-8)
  - Early Childhood Education, (Grades PreKinder-Kinder)
  - Elementary Self Contained, (Grades 1-8)